

REMARKS

I Disposition of Claims

Claim 1-12 and 14 are currently pending. Claim 13 has been canceled, and its limitations incorporated into Claim 1. Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for indicating that the subject matter of Claims 13 and 14 would be allowable if presented in independent form. Applicant has therefore amended Claim 1 to contain all of the limitations of Claim 13. Claim 14 has also been amended to correct dependency and a typographical error. No new matter has been added.

II Objections to Specification

The Examiner has objected to informalities in the specification. As required by the Examiner, on page 2, line 16, "of the" has been changed to "by the" for clarity. Also, all unnecessary capitalization of "Attachment block mechanism" on page 18 has been corrected.

III Objections to the Claims

The Examiner has objected to the misspelling of "connection" in Claim 1. This error has been corrected.

The Examiner has objected to the capitalization of "Attachment block mechanism" in Claim 13. Claim 13 has been canceled and its limitations incorporated into Claim 1. The capitalization has been corrected in current Claim 1.

IV Novelty

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Olympus Optical (JP 30/82462). Claim 1 has been amended to recite all of the limitations of former Claim 13, which the Examiner has indicated is drawn to allowable subject matter. Therefore, the rejection should be withdrawn.

V Non-obviousness

The Examiner made several rejections of Claims 1-12 as being obvious over the Olympus Optical reference in view of a number of different secondary references. However, the Examiner has indicated that former Claims 13 and 14 are drawn to allowable subject matter. Claim 1 has

been amended to include all of the limitations of former Claim 13. All other claims are dependent on Claim 1. Therefore, all the claims should now be considered non-obvious and the objections withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

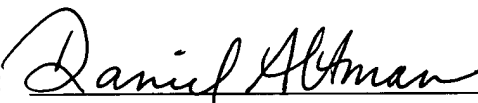
In view of the above, the claims are now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of all outstanding rejections are respectfully requested. Allowance of the claims at an early date is solicited. If any points remain that can be resolved by telephone, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-given telephone number.

Please charge any additional fees that may be required, including any fees for additional extensions of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

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